

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Before paragraph [0001] insert the following heading:

**Background of the Invention**

Before paragraph [0004] insert the following heading:

**Summary of the Invention**

Please delete paragraphs [0005] and [0006] in their entirety:

~~[0005]—The objective is solved in the invention by the characteristics of the independent patent claims.~~

~~[0006]—Advantageous embodiments and further improvements of the invention are described in the dependant patent claims.~~

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] According to an embodiment of the invention, the SMSC is designed technically such that it stores the CgPty address of the HLR found during the first attempt at delivery and that it retains this information parallel to the pending SM. During each subsequently required retry, the SMSC is supplied immediately and internally with the target address of the HLR to be queried for the SM to be delivered and that it can thus request the Send Routing Information For SM from the proper HLR through the SS7 channel. This merely requires the addition of a new field in the holding location of the SMSC for pending SM as well as computational instructions to transfer the CgPty address of the HLR into this field. This information may be taken either from the SCCP or MAP component of the SRI for SM response of the queried HLR.

Before paragraph [0017] insert the following heading:

**Brief Description of the Drawing**

Before paragraph [0019] insert the following heading:

Detailed Description

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0020]** Receipt of the message by MNP-SRF 15 triggers an MNP-SRF operation. The MNP-SRF function 15 checks the MSISDN in the CdPty address and determines that the MSISDN had been transferred to another network. This determination may be handled in the known manner by an inquiry to a number portability ~~database~~ databases (not shown). The CdPty address is modified on the basis of the data in the NP database and now contains a routing number (RN) or a combination of routing number and MSISDN of recipient 11. The routing number points to subscription network 16 of recipient 11. The MAP Send Routing Information For SM message with the modified CdPty address is sent by MNP-SRF function 15 of network 12 to MNP-SRF function 17 of the subscription network 16 (step 4).